

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SS-15

NSC-05 OIC-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 H-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 /101 W

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R 101618Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6956

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: ICAO: DIFFICULTIES WITH NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

1. EARLY IN OCCUPANCY SEVERAL INADEQUACIES INCLUDING MAINTENANCE/OPERATION WERE ATTRIBUTED TO IRRITATION OF DEVELOPER/ CONTRACTOR WANTING MORE MONEY, AND DISGRUNTLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WHOSE DELAYING STRIKES HAD BEEN "DISCOURAGED" BY LOCAL/NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

2. NOVEMBER 6 CANADA REP TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT SUCH NEW BUILDING PROBLEMS ONLY "TIP OF ICEBERG." DEVELOPER ON VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. LITIGATION UNDERWAY AND BUILDING WILL BE "ATTACHED" NOVEMBER 22 BY GEORGIAN FINANCIERS. BUILDING COST \$30 MILLION BUT IS NOT WORTH THE AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE (APPARENTLY \$23 MILLION). ACCORDING TO CANADA REP "SOMEONE" MUST FIND \$7 MILLION.

3. HOWEVER, HE SAID "MONEY" WAS SMALL PART OF PROBLEM. USREP ASKED IF RUMORS OF DELIBERATE HARASSMENT WERE WELL FOUNDED. HE SAID THEY ARE: THAT DEVELOPER/MAINTENANCE/OPERATING PERSONNEL ARE HARASSING TO FORCE ICAO/GOC TO COME UP WITH MORE MONEY.

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RM FYI: ELEVATORS HAVE NEVER WORKED EXCEPT SPASMODICALLY, AND EMERGENCY ALARM HEARD ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SIGNALLING PEOPLE "STUCK IN ELEVATOR." DURING DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AIR CONDITIONING "MALFUNCTIONED" BECOMING HEAT, "COOKING" DELEGATES IN SOME COMMITTEE ROOMS, AND STEAMING INTERPRETERS IN THEIR CABINS. THEY HELD ON HEROICALLY AND USREP WORKED WITH ICAO ADMIN SERVICES DIRECTOR PLACING SMALL FANS ETC. SO MEETINGS WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE ADJOURNED.

5. MORE RECENTLY ON OCCASION NOVEMBER 6 WARNER AWARD TO MRS. CHARLES LINDBERGH, THERE WERE THREE REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS. (A) WE ARRIVED EARLY TO FIND BUILDING HAD BECOME ALMOST INACCESSIBLE OVERNIGHT BECAUSE CONSTRUCTION CREWS HAD DUG UP SIDEWALK AREA SURROUNDING BUILDINGS PREPARATORY TO PUTTING IN SIDEWALKS (WHICH ICAO HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN FOR PM'S VISIT TO OPEN NEW BUILDING OCTOBER 3). (B) LATER IN DAY THERE WERE TWO SERIOUS ELEVATOR INCIDENTS: PRES/COUNCIL HAD RESERVED ELEVATOR TO BE MANUALLY OPERATED TO TAKE MRS. LINDBERGH, PRES/COUNCIL, SYG, USREP AND MINISTER JOHNSON DIRECT FROM USMISSION TO ASSEMBLY HALL FOR CEREMONY. OPERATOR STANDING BY BUT REFUSED LET PARTY ENTER BECAUSE ELEVATOR "NOT IN OPERATION." PRES COUNCIL FINALLY PHYSICALLY SHOVED OPERATOR ASIDE. THEN ELEVATOR STOPPED AWKWARDLY SEVERAL FLOORS. (C) AFTER CEREMONY, ANOTHER REGRETTABLE INCIDENT: JOHN LESLIE, SENIOR VP PAA RETIRED, WAS DISTINGUISHED GUEST. HE IS WHEELCHAIR PARAPLEGIC -- SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE, BUT ELEVATOR "GOT STUCK", MALFUNCTIONED AND WOULD NOT DESCEND TO LOWER PARKING LEVEL WHERE SPECIAL MEDI-VAN WAITED. FORTUNATELY ICAO CONFERENCE ESCORT (HALL/US) AND USMISSION FSO GRABENSTETTER WERE WITH LESLIES, FINALLY CARRYING HIM CONSPICUOUSLY DOWNSTAIRS, THROUGH LOBBY, ACROSS PLAZA AND OVER DUG-UP SIDEWALK TO CAR.

6. FOR THOSE WHO FIND HARD TO BELIEVE SUCH INCIDENTS DELIBERATE, USREP REMINDS DEPARTMENT THAT LAST YEAR MONTREAL FIREMEN ADMITTED SETTING FATAL FIRES DURING FIREMEN'S STRIKE.  
END FYI

7. CANADA REP SAYS SITUATION SERIOUS AND BEFORE LONG COUNCIL WILL LEARN OF MAGNITUDE.  
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## Message Attributes

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